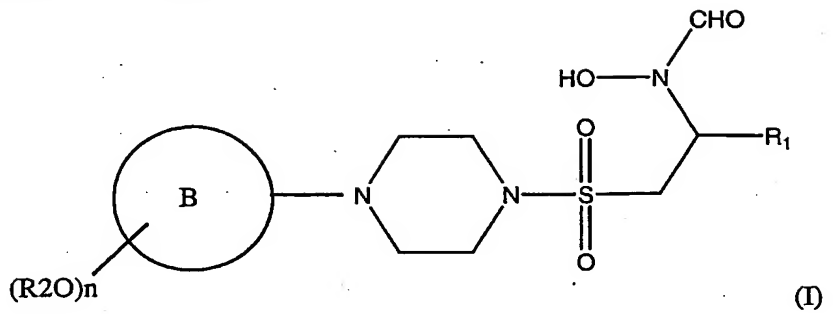
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is a C1-6 alkyl group substituted by one to five fluorine groups.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is substituted by three or four fluorine groups.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group - CF2CHCF2.

7. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group –CH2CF3.

8. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein n is 1.

9. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R1 is an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl, aryl having six ring atoms, a five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S or a C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl group wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S

10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

11. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is unsubstituted.

12. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is substituted by one or two substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF3 and CN.

13. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R1 is substituted by fluorine.

14. A compound according to claim 11 or claim 13 wherein R1 is tetrahydropyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2CH2- or 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-.

15. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is C1-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

17. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

18. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 for use in therapy.

19. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by one or more metalloproteinase enzymes.

20. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by collagenase 3.

21. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

22. Use according to claim 21, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

23. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

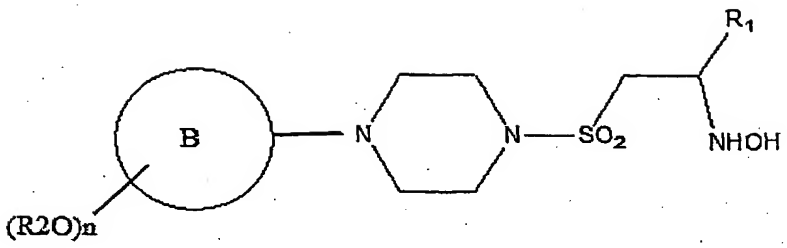
24. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

25. A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

26. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

27. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

28. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, which comprises:
converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV)



(IV)

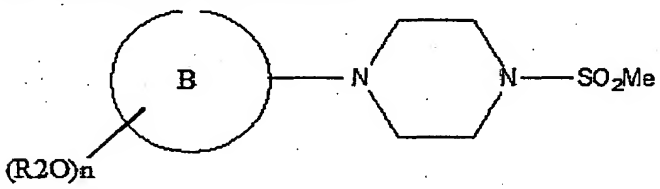
(wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I))

into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with an appropriate mixed anhydride;

and optionally thereafter carrying out one or more of the following:

converting the compound obtained into a further compound according to the invention and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug or solvate of the compound.

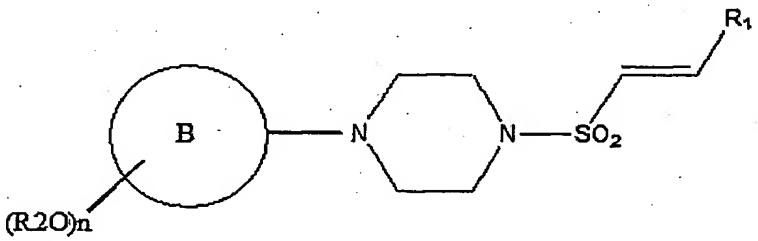
29. A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R2, n and ring B are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

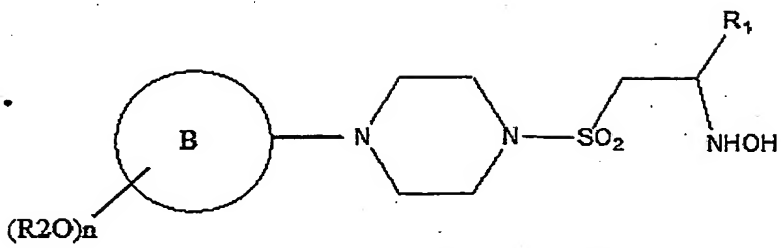
30. A compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein R2,n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

31. A compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.